

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00
SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 EA-10 /110 R

DRAFTED BY COMMERCE/SARLINGHOUSE
APPROVED BY STR/WBKELLY,JR
TREASURY: EBARBER
STATE: BTAGLIANI
ITC: JBOYD
LABOR: DPARKER
AG: BHARPER (INFO)

-" .
STR: BBARREDA (SUBSTANCE)
-----095393 240321Z /15
O 240025Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH JAPANESE MITI OFFICIALS, MAY 24-26

REF: GENEVA 7679

1. CONCERNING MEETINGS OF MAY 24-26 WITH TAKAHASKI AND
SIX OTHER MITI OFFICIALS, IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT GOJ IS
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STILL DELAYING DETAILED RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUESTS. MTN DEL
SHOULD, THEREFORE, SEEK FROM TAKAHASHI FIRM INDICATION OF
DATE WHEN GOJ WILL PROVIDE DETAILED RESPONSE, POINTING OUT
THAT FURTHER DELAYS WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO AVOID, AS
JAPANESE DESIRE, A CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOJ MAY BE UNWILLING TO CIRCULATE A

REVISED OFFER TO OTHER MTN PARTICIPANTS UNTIL DIET SESSION CLOSES IN MID-JUNE. HOWEVER, GOJ SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN PRIVATE TO USG WELL BEFORE THEN. BEGIN FYI. IN TOKYO, BARREDA WAS TOLD BY MITI THAT GOJ WOULD BE READY BY MAY 20-21. END FYI. A MID-JUNE REPLY WOULD GIVE US VIRTUALLY NO TIME TO RESOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS BEFORE JULY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF MTN OR TO MAKE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE U.S. OFFER IF WARRANTED.

3. AS FOR U.S. RESPONSE TO JAPANESE REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN U.S. OFFER, MTN DEL SHOULD REITERATE POSITION THAT

U.S. WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE A FIRM RESPONSE UNTIL WE RECEIVE DETAILED INDICATIONS OF EXTENT TO WHICH JAPAN IS PREPARED TO IMPROVE ITS OWN OFFER SO AS TO BRING IT MORE IN LINE WITH INITIAL U.S. OFFER. USG ALREADY FEELS PRESURE FROM DOMESTIC INTERESTS WHICH FIND OUR PRESENT OFFER OVERLY GENEROUS AND INADEQUATELY RECIPROCATED. THAT IS, THE U.S. IS NOW IN THE POSITION THE JAPANESE WISH TO AVOID (PARA 1, REFTEL).

4. NEVERTHELESS, IF JAPANESE ATTEMPT TO BE RESPONSIVE AT THIS MEETING BY INDICATING MORE PRODUCT AREAS WHERE OFFERS CAN BE IMPROVED AND BY INDICATING THAT DETAILED RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUESTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING VERY SHORTLY, MTN DEL MAY BE VAGUELY ENCOURAGING REGARDING U.S. FLEXIBILITY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS OWN OFFER. THIS FLEXIBILITY WILL BE LIMITED FOR REASONS OF WHICH MTN DEL IS WELL AWARE -- ACTUAL DECISIONS ON REVISED U.S. OFFER WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL MID-JUNE; DOMESTIC PRESSURE AGAINST IMPROVEMENT IS STRONG; AND U.S. OFFER FAR EXCEEDS JAPANESE OFFER IN LIBERALIZATION.

5. PRODUCT AREAS APPEARING ON JAPANESE REQUEST LIST IN WHICH VAGUE ENCOURAGEMENT MAY BE GIVEN AT THIS TIME, AS APPROPRIATE, ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) BENZENOID CHEMICALS -- U.S. WILL REVIEW THIS PRODUCT AREA AND WILL MOST LIKELY BE MAKING OFFERS ON SOME PRODUCTS. WE NOTE JAPANESE REQUEST ON SOME BENZENOID CHEMICAL BASKET ITEMS. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM AND TO US IF THEY COULD SPECIFY CHEMICALS WITHIN THE BASKETS; (B) OPTICAL GOODS (I.E. BINOCULARS) -- WE PROBABLY WILL NOT OPPOSE ANY BILL, IF ANY IS INITIATED, OFFERING PERMANENT DUTY SUSPENSION; (C) CERAMIC TABLEWARE -- U.S. WILL REVIEW THIS PRODUCT AREA AND MAY MAKE OFFERS ON SOME PRODUCTS; (D) SOME BICYCLE PARTS -- (TSUSA 7323670) FYI: U.S. OFFER ON MOST PARTS COVERED BY TSUSA 7323670, INCLUDING DERAILLEURS (OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO JAPAN), MIGHT BE IMPROVED FROM 10.0 PERCENT TO 6.0 PERCENT END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE131748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SARLINGHOUSE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-0217
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780523/aaaaatjt.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86184597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 7679
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2585536
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH JAPANESE MITI OFFICIALS, MAY 24-26
TAGS: ETRD, JA, US, MTN
To: GENEVA USMTN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86184597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014